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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/550,192	04/17/2000	Antony Shui Sum Tang	8446.00	1551
26889	7590	12/17/2004	EXAMINER	
MICHAEL CHAN NCR CORPORATION 1700 SOUTH PATTERSON BLVD DAYTON, OH 45479-0001				WASYLCHAK, STEVEN R
3624		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<i>Office Action Summary</i>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/550,192	TANG ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Steven R. Wasylchak	3624		<i>My</i>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/5/2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

RESPONSE TO RECONSIDERATION

1. This office action is in response to the reconsideration mailed on Aug. 5, 2008.
2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as disclosed by Yates et al. (US 6,330,586) as per last office action.
3. Examiner respectfully objects to the drawings: the first independent claim mentions type A modules and type B modules, which are not found in the drawings; for enablement purposes, examiner respectfully requests the drawings include and label these modules. Also, examiner requests set diagrams or Venn diagrams (union, null set, universal set, intersection, etc.) to fully understand the logic of the claim 1.
4. Examiner responds to arguments:
 - Page 9: mere repeating or multiplicity is not novel.
 - Page 10: labeling letters in sub-headers in sequence avoids confusion if an dependent claim with non-sequence sub headers is converted to an independent claim.
 - Page 12: Page 13: the sequence of events with respect to timing is not relevant so long as the results are the same.
 - Page 14: see argument w/r/t Page 12 above.
 - Page 15: maintained meaning stored in; inventory being a database or CD or floppy; copies are multiples and thus not novel.
 - Page 16: a set is a group or collection as in independent claim 1.
 - Page 17: modules are different cells in the database.

Page 18: agent types: buyers (purchasing agent) and sellers (sales agent or salesman); neither A nor B is the null set.

Page 21: flexibility as in options available in combination and permutation and set theory (doing nothing is the null set).

Page 22: each system has an output generated by the transfer function; may or might subsumes must in the alternative mode selection.

Page 25: incoming data is a message input.

Page 27: see "combinations/permuations" in the center of the page.

Page 28: software agent is a transfer function.

Page 29-38: see Page 27 above.

This action is **NON-FINAL**. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven R. Wasylchak whose telephone number is (703) 308-2848. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin, can be reached at (703) 308-1065. The fax number for Art Unit 3624 is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Steven Wasylchak



11/22/04



VINCENT MILLIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600